

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV781674622US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: May30, 2006

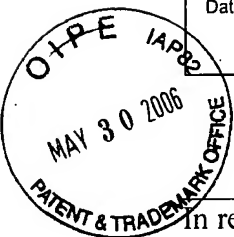
Signature: _____

(Marco Jimenez)

Docket No.: 393032029200

Client reference: H7571US

(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Yasushi KURAKAKE et al.

Confirmation No.: 4246

Application No.: 10/022,992

Examiner: Thong H. Vu

Filed: December 17, 2001

Art Unit: 2142

For: METHOD OF SEARCHING INFORMATION
SITE BY ITEM KEYWORD AND ACTION
KEYWORD

TRANSMITTAL OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 7, 2006, enclosed herewith is an English translation of the certified priority document of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-383853, filed December 18, 2000, from which priority is claimed.

Dated: May 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

Mehran Arjomand

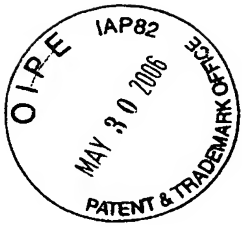
Registration No.: 48,231

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

555 West Fifth Street, Suite 3500

Los Angeles, California 90013

(213) 892-5200



DECLARATION

I Harutoshi Suzuki, of 3-6-5 Fujigaoka, Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa-ken, 251-0004 Japan, declare that I am a Patent Agent and conversant with the Japanese and English languages and that the accompanying translation, which was prepared by me, is a true translation of Japanese Patent Application No. Tokugan 2000-383853.

Signed this 17th day of May , 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harutoshi Suzuki".

Harutoshi Suzuki

PATENT OFFICE
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of the following application as filed with this Office.

Date of Application: December 18, 2000
Application Number: Tokugan 2000-383853
Applicant(s): YAMAHA CORPORATION

Commissioner, Patent Office

[Document] Patent Application

[Docket No.] P83515-15

[Filing Date] December 18, 2000

[Addressee] Commissioner of Patent Office

[I.P.C.] H04L 12/00

[Title] Information Search Method and Information Storage
Medium

[Claims] 7

[Inventor]

[Residence] c/o YAMAHA CORPORATION
10-1 Nakazawa-cho, Hamamatsu-shi, Shizuoka-ken

[Name] KURAKAKE Yasushi

[Inventor]

[Residence] c/o YAMAHA CORPORATION
10-1 Nakazawa-cho, Hamamatsu-shi, Shizuoka-ken

[Name] HORI Mitsuo

[Applicant]

[Identification Code] 000004075

[Name] YAMAHA CORPORATION

[Representative]

[Identification Code] 100060690

[Patent attorney]

[Name] TAKINO Hideo

[Telephone] 03-5421-2331

[Indication of fees]

[Account No] 012450

[Amount] 21000

[List of attachments]

[Item] Specification 1

[Item] Drawings 1

[Item] Abstract 1

[Power of attorney] 9004721

[Proof] Requested

[Document] Specification

[Title of the Invention] Information Search Method and
Information Storage Medium

[What is claimed is]

1. An information search method for a client to retrieve content information about an information site on a network connecting with said client, a plurality of information sites and a search site, said method characterized in that: said client transmits an item keyword indicating content information and an action keyword corresponding to action for said content information to said search site in response to a request; said search site searches an information site having content information indicated by said transmitted item keyword and matching with an action corresponding to said action keyword; said search site transmits site information indicating said searched information site to said client; and said client can retrieve content information from the corresponding information site based on said transmitted site information.

2. An information search method of storing a site information, an item keyword, and an action keyword in a search site by allowing said site information indicating a plurality of information sites on a network to correspond to said item keyword indicating content information of said information site and to said action keyword corresponding to action for content information of said information site, said method characterized in that: a client connected to said

network transmits an item keyword indicating content information and an action keyword corresponding to action for said content information to said search site in response to a request; said search site searches site information corresponding to said transmitted item keyword and action keyword and transmits site information indicating said searched information site to said client; and said client can retrieve content information from the corresponding information site based on said transmitted site information.

3. An information search method for a search site to search site information about an information site on a network connecting with said client, a plurality of information sites and a search site, said method characterized in that: said search site searches an information site having content information indicated by an item keyword transmitted from a client and content information matching an action corresponding to an action keyword; and said search site transmits site information indicating said searched information site to said client.

4. An information search method of storing a site information, an item keyword, and an action keyword in a search site by allowing said site information indicating a plurality of information sites on a network to correspond to said item keyword indicating content information of said information site and to said action keyword corresponding to an action for content information of said information site, said method characterized in that: said search site searches

site information corresponding to said item keyword and action keyword transmitted from a client and transmits site information indicating said searched information site to said client.

5. An information search method for a client to search content information of an information site on a network connecting with said client, a plurality of information sites and a search site, said method characterized in that: said client sends an item keyword indicating content information and an action keyword corresponding to action for said content information in response to a request in order to allow said search site to search site information; and said client retrieves content information from the information site based on the site information transmitted from said search site.

6. The information search method according to claim 1, 2, or 5 characterized in that: said client allows said item keyword and action keyword transmitted to said search site to be entered as a phrase comprising said item keyword and action keyword.

7. An information storage medium characterized by maintaining correspondence between site information indicating a plurality of information sites on a network, an item keyword indicating content information of said information site, and an action keyword corresponding to an action for the content information of said information site, and storing said site information, item keyword, and action

keyword.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Technical Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a method of using a network and retrieving content information of an information site (server) via a search site (server) by means of a terminal etc. connected to the network, and concerns an information storage medium used for the information search method.

[0002]

[Prior Art]

In recent years, there has been an increased use of networks such as the Internet owing to various terminals such as personal computers and portable telephones. A user of these terminals can obtain various types of information by searching information sites. For example, the user connects a personal computer (client) to a search site (server) and sends a keyword corresponding to desired information. The search site can search an information site (server) containing information corresponding to the keyword, and can provide the client user with the site information such as an URL. Generally, a keyword used for this search is a noun, allowing an AND operation by combining a plurality of keywords.

[0003]

[Objects of the Invention]

Users may search information for various purposes. A conventional method uses just a combination of noun keywords, and often retrieves information which does not match the user's purpose. Accordingly, the user needs to select intended information from the retrieved information, causing unsatisfactory usability.

[0004]

It is therefore an object of the present invention to allow search of information matching the client user's purpose as much as possible, and provide a user-friendly information search method.

[0005]

[Means for Achieving the Objects]

An information search method according to claim 1 of the present invention enables a client to retrieve content information from an information site on a network connecting with the client, a plurality of information sites and a search site. The information search method is characterized in that: the client transmits an item keyword indicating content information and an action keyword corresponding to action for the content information to the search site in response to a request; the search site searches an information site having content information indicated by the transmitted item keyword and matching action corresponding to the action keyword; the search site transmits site information indicating the searched information site to the client; and the client can retrieve content information from

the corresponding information site based on the transmitted site information.

[0006]

The information search method according to claim 1 as configured above uses an item keyword and an action keyword. For example, the item keyword such as "commodity A" indicates the relevant commodity. The action keyword such as "purchase" corresponds to an action to purchase commodity A. These keywords are sent to a search site. The search site searches an information site having content information matching the item keyword "commodity A" and the action keyword "purchase". For example, the content information mentions that a certain client sells commodity A. The search site sends a piece of or pieces of site information indicating information site(s) to the client. Based on this site information, the client can retrieve the content information from the corresponding information site. This method can retrieve information matching the client user's purpose as much as possible, thereby improving usability.

[0007]

An information search method according to claim 2 of the present invention stores a site information, an item keyword, and an action keyword in a search site by allowing the site information indicating a plurality of information sites on a network to correspond to the item keyword indicating content information of the information site and the action keyword corresponding to action for content

information of the information site. The method is characterized in that: a client connected to the network transmits an item keyword indicating content information and an action keyword corresponding to action for the content information to the search site in response to a request; the search site searches site information corresponding to the transmitted item keyword and action keyword, and transmits site information indicating the searched information site to the client; and the client can retrieve content information from the corresponding information site based on the transmitted site information.

[0008]

The information search method according to claim 2 as configured above can provide operations and effects similar to those in claim 1.

[0009]

An information search method according to claim 3 of the present invention enables a search site to search site information about an information site on a network connecting with a client, a plurality of information sites and a search site. The method is characterized in that: the search site searches an information site having content information indicated by an item keyword transmitted from a client and matching action corresponding to an action keyword; and the search site transmits site information indicating the searched information site to the client.

[0010]

The information search method according to claim 3 as configured above can provide operations and effects similar to those in claim 1 by allowing a client to issue an item keyword and an action keyword.

[0011]

An information search method according to claim 4 stores a site information, an item keyword, and an action keyword in a search site by allowing the site information indicating a plurality of information sites on a network to correspond to the item keyword indicating content information of the information site and the action keyword corresponding to action for the content information of the information site. The method is characterized in that: the search site searches site information corresponding to the item keyword and action keyword transmitted from a client, and transmits site information indicating the searched information site to the client.

[0012]

The information search method according to claim 4 as configured above can provide operations and effects similar to those in claim 1 by allowing a client to issue an item keyword and an action keyword.

[0013]

An information search method according to claim 5 enables a client to retrieve content information from an information site on a network connecting with the client, a plurality of information sites and a search site. The method

is characterized in that: the client sends a keyword indicating content information and an action keyword corresponding to action for the content information in response to a request in order to allow the search site to search for site information; and the client retrieves content information from an information site based on site information transmitted from the search site.

[0014]

The information search method according to claim 5 as configured above can provide operations and effects similar to those in claim 1 by allowing a search site to search information based on an item keyword and an action keyword.

[0015]

The information search method according to claim 6 of the present invention has the configuration in claim 1, 2, or 5, and is characterized in that: the client allows the item keyword and action keyword transmitted to the search site to be entered as a phrase comprising the item keyword and action keyword.

[0016]

The information search method according to claim 6 as configured above can provide operations and effects similar to those in claims 1, 2, and 5, enables a client user to easily instruct purposes, and can further improve usability because an item keyword and an action keyword can be entered as a phrase.

[0017]

An information storage medium according to claim 7 is characterized by maintaining correspondence between site information indicating a plurality of information sites on a network, an item keyword indicating content information of the information site, and an action keyword corresponding to action for content information of the information site, and storing the site information, item keyword, and action keyword.

[0018]

The use of an information storage medium according to claim 7 as configured above can optimally implement the information search method as set forth in claim 1 or 2.

[0019]

[Embodiments]

An embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. FIG. 3 shows a configuration example of the network system to which an information search method is applied as an embodiment of the present invention. A communication network 1 connects with personal computers 2_1 to 2_n as clients, a plurality of information sites 3_1 to 3_n as servers for the clients, and a search site 4. The information site 3_n and the search site 4 connect with intermediary servers 5_1 and 5_2 , respectively. A portable terminal 2_1 such as a portable telephone functions as a client and is connected to information sites 3_1 to 3_n and the search site 4 by means of the wireless communication.

[0020]

The communication network 1 includes intermediary servers 5_1 and 5_2 , etc. Based on Internet protocols such as WWW (HTTP), for example, many providers form a network comprising many servers such as information sites 3_1 to 3_n , the search site 4, and many clients such as personal computer terminals 2_1 to 2_n , the portable terminal 2_i , etc.

[0021]

It may be preferable to connect a plurality of search sites 4. In this case, each search site can be considered to be equivalent to each other. The embodiment describes one search site 4. While the figure shows a plurality of clients including personal computer terminals 2_1 to 2_n and the portable terminal 2_i , these clients independently perform similar processing for the information sites 3_1 to 3_n and the search site 4. The following description represents these clients typically as one client 2. A suffix to the reference numeral is used for distinguishing the same types of components from each other. The suffix is omitted when any representative component is indicated without distinction.

[0022]

The search site 4 stores a plurality of pieces of "site information" to be retrieved. In this embodiment, the site information is an URL (uniform resource locator) indicative of any one of a plurality of information sites 3_1 to 3_n existing on the network. The URL is associated with a keyword appropriate for the contents of the information site

3 indicated by each URL. There is a plurality of associated keywords which include an "item keyword" and an "action keyword". The keyword is any one of predefined words. The following embodiment also expresses the item keyword as a "genre keyword" and the action keyword as an "objective keyword".

[0023]

Namely, an information storage medium such as a database in the search site 4 stores URLs indicating a plurality of information sites 3_1 to 3_n on the network. Each URL is associated with a genre keyword indicating content information of each of information sites 3_1 to 3_n and an objective keyword corresponding to an action for the content information of the information site.

[0024]

The genre keyword is a noun expressing information content provided by the information site 3 such as types of commodities including services, etc. For example, genre keywords include an acoustic musical instrument, electronic musical instrument, DTM, concert, artist, musical score, CD, net distribution, MIDI, call signal with melodies, karaoke, etc. The "DTM" indicates desktop music software. The "artist" denotes music software, concerts, etc. of that artist. The "net distribution" or "MIDI" provides various types of distribution information such as performance data, karaoke software, and programs. These types of commodities include services, etc.

[0025]

The objective keyword is a verb expressing information equivalent to a specific action provided by the information site 3 or action (processing) available in the information site 3. This keyword specifies action to be taken by a user of the client terminal 2 (hereafter just referred to as a user) in relation to the content information. Specifically, objective keywords include "inquire", "buy", "sell", "teach", "learn", "borrow", "sing", "listen", etc.

[0026]

In the above example, the objective keyword "purchase" corresponds to user action to purchase an item. The objective keyword "sell" corresponds to user action to sell an item. The objective keyword "teach" corresponds to action to teach a subject. The objective keyword "learn" corresponds to action to learn a subject. Namely, in this embodiment, the action keyword is referred to as the objective keyword because the action keyword directly corresponds to an objective (action) of the client 2 aiming at acquiring information.

[0027]

Here, it is assumed that a first user has an objective of "purchasing commodity A". From the information site, this user finally needs to acquire information about a second user(s) having an objective of "selling commodity A". In order to deal with this case, the embodiment allows the search site 4 to store an objective keyword as well as a URL

and a genre keyword. The objective keyword is specified as the first user's objective keyword "purchase" so that it corresponds to the second user's objective keyword "sell".

[0028]

Accordingly, in this embodiment, when the second user registers information about "selling commodity A" to a specific information site, the search site 4 uses a database to store the URL of the specific information site, the genre keyword "commodity A", and the objective keyword "purchase" corresponding to each other. The similar correspondence is maintained for other actions and objective keywords.

[0029]

This is just one predetermined correspondence based on search conditions. It may be preferable to use an action keyword corresponding to action of a user (client) who needs to acquire information and another action keyword corresponding to action of another user who wishes to provide information associated with each other. In consideration of correspondence during search in the search site, any correspondence (i.e., way of determining an action keyword) is acceptable if it is possible to search an information site having content information matching with the item keyword and associated action corresponding to the action keyword.

[0030]

In the above example, the database in the search site 4 may store the URL of the specific information site, "commodity A", and "sell" associated with each other. It may

be preferable to search for information by detecting a keyword "sell" corresponding to an objective keyword "purchase".

[0031]

The client 2 may be available in any form if it can acquire information from the information site 3. The client 2 uses a conventionally known Internet browser to handle information in the search site 4 and the information site 3. The client 2 accesses the search site 4 to search and acquire the URL of the information site 3 which provides user-requested information. The client 2 then uses the acquired directory information (URL) to access the information site and acquire the targeted information. The information site 3 stores various types of contents information (sources in the form of a plurality of HTML-created WWW pages) to be provided to the client 2. The information site 3 then returns the source corresponding to the request (access) from the client 2 to the client terminal.

[0032]

FIG. 7 shows a hardware configuration of a personal computer terminal in the client 2. An operation device is a mouse or a keyboard connected to the personal computer. Any operation device is available such as a special switch or an electronic musical instrument capable of input music performance. The hardware configuration in the search site 4 and the information site 3 or the hardware configuration of a portable terminal as the client 2 is almost the same as that

shown in FIG. 7 and therefore is not illustrated. The search site 4 uses RAM, ROM, external storage, etc. to store a plurality of pieces of information (URLs and keywords) for specifying an information site 3. The site information database includes already stored information and information added (registered) from the client 2. The information site 3 uses RAM, ROM, external storage, etc. to store various types of information provided to the client 2. These types of information include a plurality of HTML-created WWW page sources (page display information) etc. transmitted by HTTP. A wireless communication device is used for a communication interface of the portable terminal. The operation devices are various switches mounted on the portable terminal.

[0033]

The following describes search and registration processes in the embodiment. The search process uses a search screen. The registration process uses a registration screen. For example, the search screen comprises a search page (Web page) created by an HTML file and contains search screen information. The registration screen comprises a registration page (Web page) created by an HTML file and contains registration screen information. The search site 4 distributes these screens to the client 2. For example, the screens are displayed on a personal computer's monitor (display device) in the client 2. A mouse is used for input operations on these screens. Once a mouse pointer (cursor) is placed on the screen, a mouse button can be pressed and

released without moving the mouse. This operation is called "mouse-clicking" or simply "clicking".

[0034]

FIG. 4 shows processes in the client 2, the search site 4, and the information site 3. First, the client 2 accesses a search page in the search site 4 (step S1). In response to this operation, the search site 4 sends search screen information to the client 2 for displaying the search page (step S2). The client 2 displays the search screen based on the received search screen information (step S3). For example, the search screen prompts a user of the client 2 to select a keyword. Then, the user selects a genre keyword and an objective keyword from an objective search area (described later) in the search screen (step S4) and initiates the search (step S5). The genre keyword and the objective keyword are sent to the search site 4.

[0035]

The search site 4 searches for information (information site URLs) containing the received genre keyword and objective keyword from the database. The search site 4 lists the search of information to create list information and sends it to the client 2 (step S6). The client 2 displays the search result (list) based on the received list information (step S7). The client 2 selects an intended URL from the displayed list, and accesses content information of the information site corresponding to the URL (step S8). By doing this operation, the client 2 can connect to the

information site 3 having the intended information. The information site 3 sends screen information in response to a request from the client 2 (step S9). The client 2 displays the contents information based on the received screen information (step S10).

[0036]

FIG. 2 shows a display example of the search screen. The search screen contains a text search area E1, an objective search area E2, a search result display area E3, and a search start button SW1. The objective search area E2 is provided in accordance with the embodiment of the present invention. The search result display area E3 displays information about a search result. The search start button SW1 is used for commanding initiation of the search. This is a mouse-clickable on-screen switch. The text search area E1 is used for entering any character string for search using an input character string in the same manner as the prior art. Search operations using this input character string are the same as those for the prior art and a description is omitted here.

[0037]

FIG. 1 shows a display example of the objective search area E2. The objective search area E2 contains a genre selection area E21 and an objective selection area E22. Beside these areas, drop-down switches SW21a and SW22a (on-screen switches) are displayed. Clicking the drop-down switch SW21a displays a list box containing a plurality of

predefined genre keywords below the genre selection area E21. When a genre keyword is selected (clicked) from the list box, the selected genre keyword is displayed in the genre selection area E21. In the example, the genre keyword "electronic musical instrument" is selected. Likewise, clicking the drop-down switch SW22a displays a list box containing a plurality of predefined objective keywords below the objective selection area E22. When an objective keyword is selected (clicked) from the list box, the selected objective keyword is displayed in the objective selection area E22. In the example, the objective keyword "purchase" is selected. These operations correspond to steps S3 and S4 in FIG. 4.

[0038]

A word "to" is displayed between the drop-down switch SW21a and the objective selection area E22. when selecting the genre keyword and the objective keyword as mentioned above, the user can enter a sentence comprising the display content in the genre selection area E21 and the display content in the objective selection area E22 according to the form of "something to do". In the example of the figure, the sentence means "electronic musical instrument to purchase". Accordingly, the user can easily express his or her objective during the input operation with highly improved usability.

[0039]

When the genre keyword and the objective keyword are selected as mentioned above, clicking the search start button

SW1 in FIG. 2 transmits the selected genre keyword and objective keyword to the search site 4. This operation corresponds to step S5 in FIG. 4. As mentioned above, the search site 4 retrieves a URL of the information site based on the genre keyword and the objective keyword and transmits a search result (list). This operation corresponds to step S6 in FIG. 4. The search result is displayed in the search result display area E3. This operation corresponds to step S7 in FIG. 4.

[0040]

FIG. 6 shows processes in the client 2 and the search site 4 when the user registers new site information to the search site. First, the client 2 accesses a registration page in the search site 4 (step S11). In response to this operation, the search site 4 sends registration screen information to the client 2 for displaying the registration page (step S12). The client 2 displays the registration page (described later) based on the received registration screen information (step S13). The client 2 then enters directory information (a URL) in the registration screen (step S14). The client 2 further enters at least one of the genre keyword and the objective keyword to be attached to this information or URL (step S15), and then submits the registration contents (step S16). This operation sends the registration contents to the search site 4. The search site 4 adds the received registration contents to the database which stores existing site information to be retrieved (step S17). This

accumulates the registered information to the information to be subsequently retrieved in the search site.

[0041]

FIG. 5 shows a display example of the registration screen. The registration screen contains an information input area E4, a genre keyword selection area E5, an objective keyword selection area E6, and an input button (on-screen switch) SW2 for submitting input information. The information input area E4 is used for entering information to be registered. This information can be an information site URL registered for the use of user's objectives such as selling and purchasing.

[0042]

Drop-down switches (on-screen switches) SW5a and SW6a are displayed besides the genre keyword selection area E5 and the objective keyword selection area E6. Clicking the drop-down switch SW5a displays a list box containing a plurality of predefined genre keywords below the genre keyword selection area E5. An intended genre keyword can be selected from the list box. The example in the figure shows that the genre keyword "electronic musical instrument" is selected. Likewise, clicking the drop-down switch SW6a displays a list box containing a plurality of predefined objective keywords below the objective keyword selection area E6. An intended objective keyword can be selected from the list box. The example in the figures shows that the objective keyword "sell" is selected.

[0043]

Clicking the input button SW2 settles the URL entered in the information input area E4, the genre keyword entered in the genre keyword selection area E5, and the objective keyword entered in the objective keyword selection area E6 to be registration information (site information to be newly added). This information is sent to the search site 4.

[0044]

The above description assumes a personal computer using a mouse for processing various operations such as display, search, registration, etc. A portable terminal such as a portable telephone is also available for these processes according to specific operations.

[0045]

In the search site 4, the database stores the item keyword (genre keyword) and the action keyword (objective keyword) corresponding to the URL. It may be preferable to store the item keyword and the action keyword as part of the URL or part of a URL path name.

[0046]

It may be preferable to allow a plurality of item keywords and action keywords to correspond to one URL.

[0047]

Instead of words, it may be preferable to provide (display) a picture or an icon equivalent to the item keyword and the action keyword.

[0048]

The embodiment allows keywords to be selected from the list boxes for the genre selection area E21, the objective selection area E22, the genre keyword selection area 5, and the objective keyword selection area 6. It may be preferable to let a user enter an intended keyword by means of a word-processing function.

[0049]

[Advantages of the Invention]

The information search method according to claim 1 or 2 of the present invention provides an item keyword indicating contents information and an action keyword corresponding to an action for the contents information. These keywords are used for searching an information site having the content information indicated by the item keyword and matching the action corresponding to the action keyword. Therefore, it is possible to retrieve information matching client user's objectives as much as possible, thereby improving usability.

[0050]

The information search method according to claim 3 of the present invention can provide operations and effects similar to those in claims 1 by allowing the client to send the item keyword and the action keyword.

[0051]

The information search method according to claim 4 of the present invention can provide operations and effects similar to those in claims 1 by allowing the client to send

the item keyword and the action keyword.

[0052]

The information search method according to claim 4 of the present invention can provide operations and effects similar to those in claims 1 by allowing the search site to retrieve site information based on the item keyword and the action keyword.

[0053]

The information search method according to claim 6 of the present invention can provide operations and effects similar to those in claims 1, 2, and 5. In addition, the method enables the item keyword and the action keyword to be entered as a sentence, and permits the client or user to easily express his or her objectives, thereby further improving usability.

[0054]

The use of the information storage medium according to claim 7 of the present invention can optimally implement the information search method according to claim 1 or 2.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

FIG. 1 shows a display example of an objective search area in a search screen according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 shows a display example of a search screen according to the embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 shows a configuration example of a network system to which the information search method is applied

according to the embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 shows processes in a client terminal, a search site, and an information site during search according to the embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 shows a display example of a registration screen according to the embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 shows processes in the client terminal and search site during registration according to the embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 shows a hardware configuration of a personal computer terminal in the client terminal according to the embodiment of the present invention.

[Explanation of Reference Symbols]

- 1 Communication network
- 2 Client
- 3 Information site
- 4 Search site
- E2 Objective search area
- E21 Genre selection area
- E22 Objective selection area

DRAWINGS

FIG. 1

E2 Objective search area

E21 Electronic musical instrument

E22 Purchase

FIG. 2

Search screen

E1 Character string search area

E2 Objective search area

SW1 Search start button

E3 Search result display area

FIG. 3

4 Search site (server)

5₂ Intermediary server

2₁ PC terminal (client)

2_n PC terminal (client)

2₁ PC terminal (client)

3₁ Information site (server)

3_n Information site (server)

5₁ Intermediary server

Item keyword

Action keyword

3 Keyword

4 Wireless communication

5 Communication network

FIG. 4

S1 Access to search page in search site

S2 Send search screen information for displaying
search page of the search site

S3 Display search screen for prompting selection of
keywords

S4 Select genre keyword and objective keyword in
objective search area

S5 Command start of search

S6 Retrieve information matching with received genre
keyword and objective keyword, and send retrieved information
in list format

S7 Display search result based on received list

S8 Select intended URL from displayed list

S9 Send screen information in response to request
from client

S10 Display contents information based on received
screen information

Client process

Search site process

Information site process

Return

FIG. 5

Registration screen

E4 Information input area

E5 Electronic musical instrument

E6 Sell

SW2 Input button

S11 Access to registration page in search site

S12 Send registration screen information of search
site for displaying registration page

S13 Display registration screen

S14 Enter information to be registered

S15 Enter keywords (at least one genre keyword and
one objective keyword)

S16 Submit registration contents

S17 Add received registration contents to database
which stores information to be retrieved

Client process

Search site process

Return

FIG. 7

Operation device

Display device

Communication network

Detection circuit

Display circuit

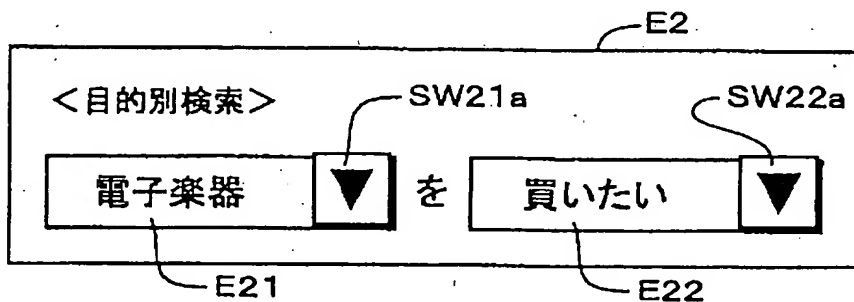
Communication interface

Communication bus

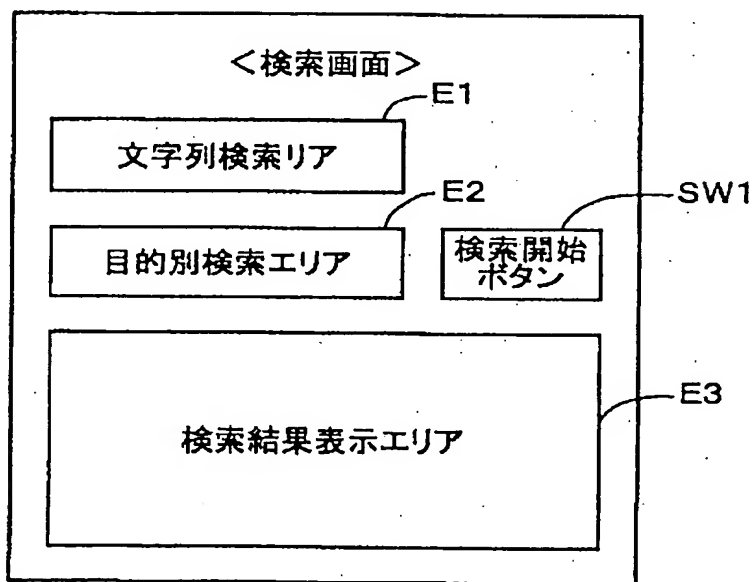
External storage device

【書類名】 図面

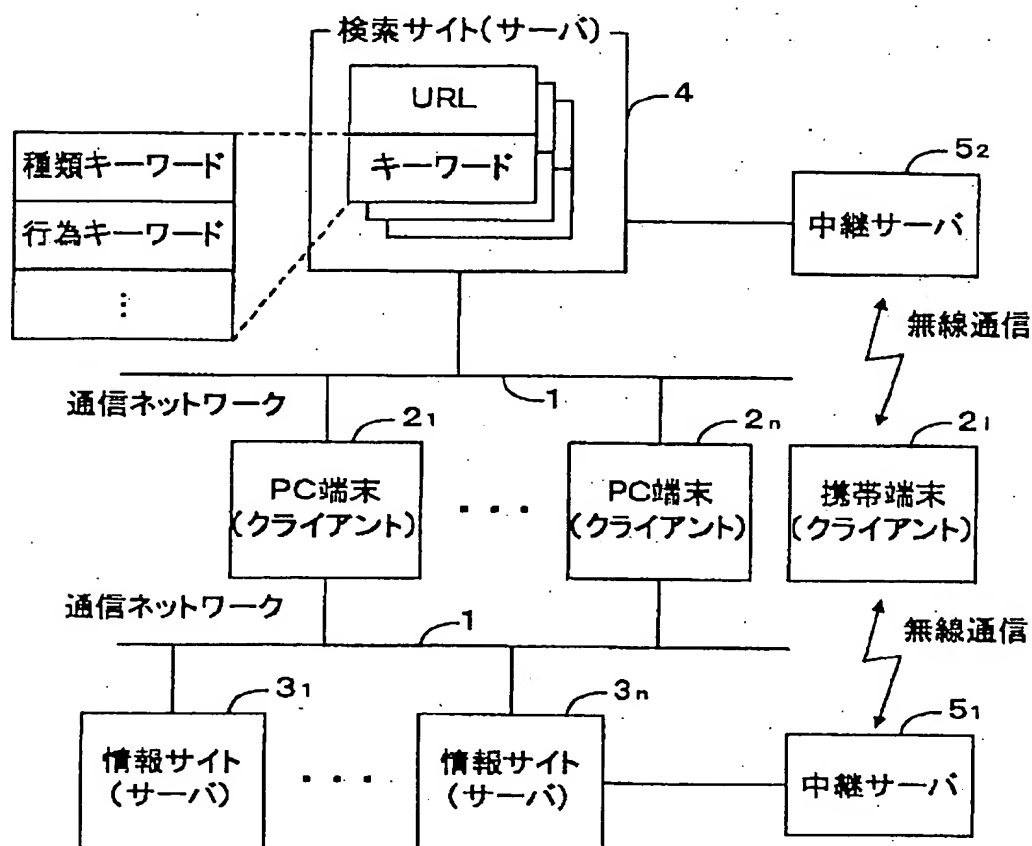
【図 1】



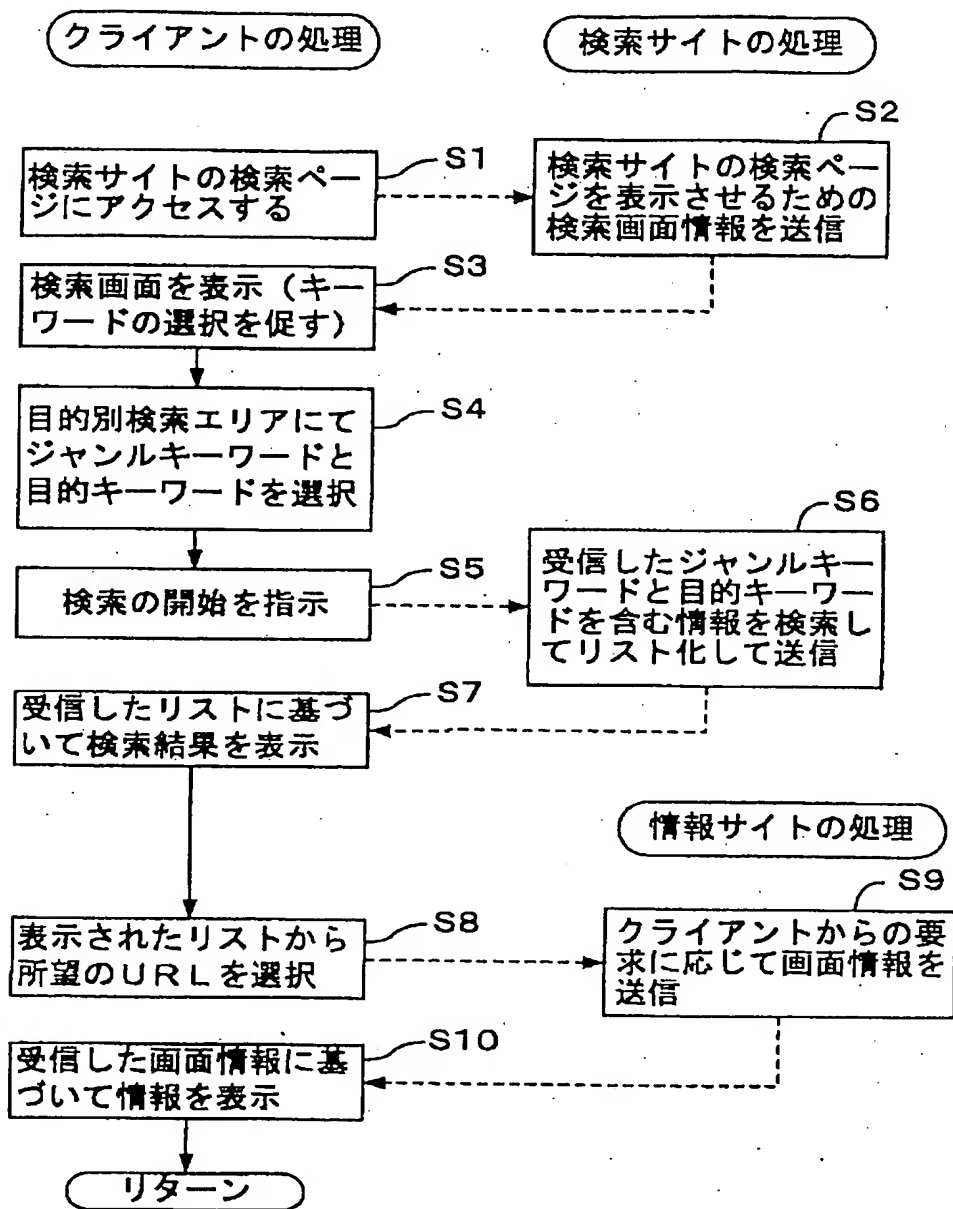
【図 2】



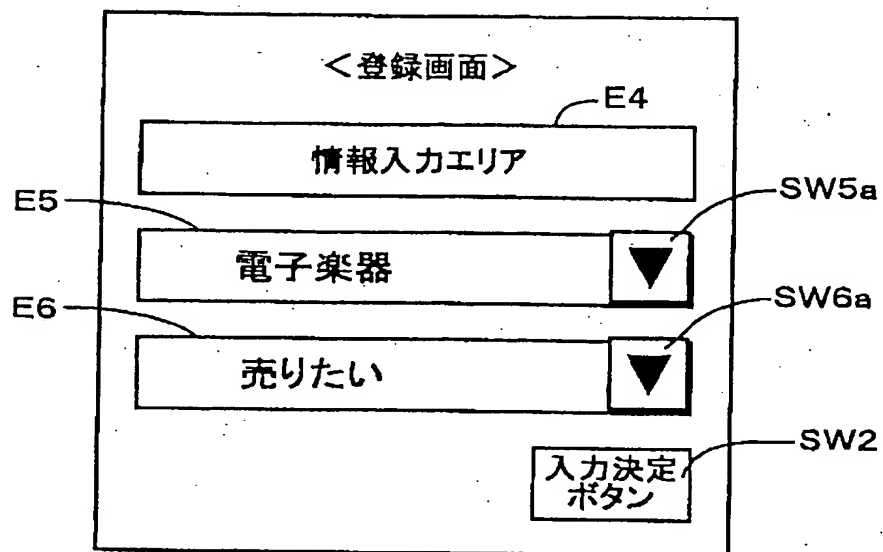
【図 3】



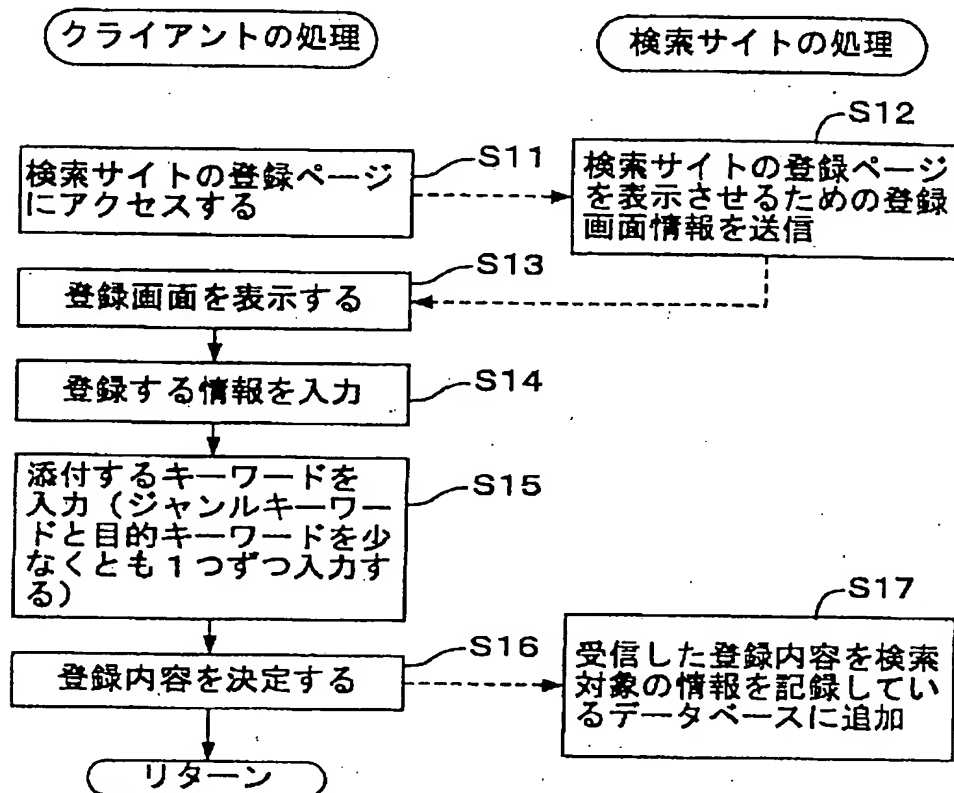
【図 4】



【図 5】



【図 6】



【図 7】

